Subject: ANS membership

Vinje, Alice Isabelle

[Wisconsin Archaeological Society
Madison, WI]

1932

THE WISCONSIN ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ORGANIZED FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECORDING AND PRESERVING
WISCONSIN INDIAN ANTIQUITIES

MADISON

CHARLES E. BROWN
SECRETARY

120 Franklin Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin
October 22, 1932

Howland Wood
American Numismatic Society
New York, New York

Dear Sir -

As a student of museum administration at the University of Wisconsin I have been asked by Mr. Charles E Brown, curator of the Historical Museum to write for information concerning the American Numismatic Society

Will you please send me any written or printed material you have. I am particularly interested in the character of the exhibits, the financial support, and the attendance and instruction of school children.

Thanking you for your courtesy I am,

Sincerely yours
Alice Isabelle Vinje

October 26, 1932.

Miss Alice Isabelle Vinje
120 Franklin Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin.

Dear Miss Vinje:

In reply to your letter concerning our organization would state as follows: It originated as a Society of coin collectors in 1858 and since that time has been slowly forming a library and a collection of coins and medals. Since 1908 we have had a building of our own and since that date both library and collection have increased materially. Our membership is about 500, divided into fellows and associates and consists of collectors of coins, medals, decorations and paper money, as well as artists and others more or less interested in our work. We are more for study and research than anything else; the museum part is really secondary in our work. Our library is probably the best numismatic library in the world. Our collection is the largest public collection in this country but does not compare with some of the old governmental collections of Europe, such as those in London, Paris, Berlin and some of the other capitals. We do more or less publishing on the subject, both of monographs written by outsiders and our staff. Unfortunately we have no suitable printed material on hand at the present moment. The last edition of our Historical Sketch is absolutely exhausted. I am, however, enclosing a small folder gotten out several years ago.

We have two large exhibition rooms and we try to keep a balanced exhibition of coins, medals and decorations. A large part of the decoration collection is on exhibition. The medals shown which are all in wall cases are placed there for their artistic excellence and at the present time are all modern medals equally divided between American and foreign. Older historical medals are at the present time not on view. The coins shown are type coins of North and South America , unusual and attractive foreign coins, historical coins and various series placed on view for their topographical interest. Several cases are now filled with the medals of George Washington. We more or less change our exhibits every year or so.

Our financial support is derived from endowment and to a small extent from the dues of our members. We are at least five miles from 42nd Street so we do not get a large number of visitors. We probably average 300 or 400 a week. Many of these are students working in the library or elsewhere. Although We have thought of extending our endeavors to the different schools we have not yet done this. However, many classes from the public schools in the vicinity at times pay us a visit.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator